The Consulate General of India, New York remains in touch with the New York city authorities for any further information regarding the missing persons. Relatives of victims have been encouraged to submit DNA samples to the City authorities for identification of remains.

(c) As per available information, the US Government is only providing unemployment benefits to the next of kin of the victims of the attacks.

(d) Government of India provided every possible assistance in tracing missing Indians (NRIs/PIOs) by operating 24 hour help-lines at CGI, New York and Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, and liaised closely with the New York city authorities. Arrangements have been made with Air India, Indian Airlines and Indian Railways for free transportation of mortal remains of the victims of these attacks from New York to their destinations in India.

Plans of Jehadi Organisations

507. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all Jehadi Organisations within and outside the Pakistan Afghan Defence Council have informed Government agencies about their plans and the Pakistan Government has lauded the plans; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take at diplomatic level and otherwise in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Defence of Pakistan and Afghanistan Council, a grouping of religious and fundamentalist parties of Pakistan, has been publicly indicating their intention to conduct strikes and rallies throughout Pakistan, in protest against the international campaign against terrorism.

Pakistan must realize that its continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism, and of groups that practice violent and obscurantist ideologies, will eventually threaten Pakistan's own internal stability. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India.

Government will continue to effectively and appropriately bring to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism. India shall also continue to play a leading role in developing the widespread international consensus against terrorism that has understood that there can be no justification for terrorism, and that it

must be eradicated wherever it exists. Government are firmly resolved to take all other necessary steps that are required to preserve the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Repatriation of Indian Fishermen Languishing in Pakistani Jails

508. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian fishermen in pakistani Jails as on the 31st October, 2001;

(b) the number of Pakistani fishermen in the Indian Jails;

(c) the number of fishermen repatriated by Pakistan and India before the Agra Summit; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to get the Indian fishermen released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per available information there were 48 Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails as on 31st October, 2001.

(b) The release and repatriation of 202 Pakistani fishermen detained in India is in process.

(c) India released 160 Pakistani fishermen and Pakistan released 159 Indian fishermen in April and June, 2001 respectively.

(d) Government have taken up with the Government of Pakistan the issue of release and repatriation of 48 Indian fishermen arrested by Pakistan on 30.10.2001. Government of Pakistan is, however, yet to acknowledge their arrest.

Indo-Bangladesh Relations

509. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are Government's expectation with the installation of new Government in Bangladesh in respect of Indo-Bangladesh relation, security of the minority community, illegal migration of Bangladeshis into the country